

made by any of them as tribes or bands, or by an considerable number of them, but that they should be regarded as peaceable, excepting the few uncontrollable and vicious, such as may be found in all communities.

With a view to securing peace with the hostile tribes, and to effect other important objects, Congress, by act of July 20th ultimo, authorized the President to appoint a commission, consisting of the Hon. N. G. Taylor, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Hon. J. B. Henderson, chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Messrs. S. F. Tappan and John B. Sanborn, together with three officers of the army, not below the rank of brigadier general. The scope of this mission comprehended the ascertaining of the alleged reasons for acts of hostility, the negotiating of treaties for the removal of just causes of complaint, the peace and safety of the whites, security of public thoroughfares, public and private property, and the selection of reservations for Indians east of the Rocky mountains - not now occupying any peacefully - to be their permanent home, and so located as not to interfere with public highways established by the United States, nor with routes of railroads to the Pacific.

The commission has recently effected very satisfactory treaty arrangements with the Kiowas, Comanches, Apaches, Arapahoes and Cheyennes. In this matter much praise is due to Superintendent Murphy, Agents Wynkoop and Leavenworth, as also D. R. Butterfield, an influential trader, for their promptness and efficiency in the discharge of the important and hazardous duty devolved upon them, of visiting the disaffected Indians, to induce them to meet the commissioners. Latest advices report the commission to have reached Fort Laramie, upon the upper Platte, where they met the Crows, but did not /⁵ make a treaty with them. The Sioux sent in word that they desired to meet the commissioners, but could not until next spring. It is hardly possible for the commission to accomplish all that is required by the act in question within the brief period of a few months, as the objects to be considered are so important (not to say difficult of attainment) that longer time will be needed than was at first supposed.